

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the March 22, 2006 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-10, 15, 16, 18-24 and 46-58 and objected to claim 14. This response cancels claims 7, 10 and 14, without prejudice or disclaimer, and amends claims 1, 8, 23-24, and 46 for further consideration. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-6, 8-9, 15-16, 18-24, and 46-58 (2 independent claims; 30 total claims) remain pending in the application.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement that claim 14 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but that such claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In order to expedite the allowance of a patent application directed to Applicants' invention, Applicants have rewritten claim 14 as independent claim 1 which now includes all of the limitations of claims 10 and 14. Applicants have also amended independent claim 46, which was rejected by the Examiner, to include the limitations that were indicated as allowable with respect to claim 14. Accordingly, Applicants believe that all pending claims should now be in condition for allowance based upon the Examiner's statement of allowable subject matter.

In view the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims fully comply with 35 U.S.C. §112 and are allowable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration of the Application and allowance of all pending claims is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the above in greater detail or deem that further amendments should be made to improve the form of the claims, then the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____

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